

**Leicester Public Schools
School Committee Workshop Minutes
May 3, 2021 @ 5:30 PM
Google Meet**

1. Call to Order

At 5:30 p.m., Mr. Hagglund informed the public that the School Committee meeting is being held online per the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the open meeting laws and called the meeting to order.

Roll Call:

Donna McCance	Present
Tom Lauder	Present
Stella Richard	Present
Scott Francis	Present
Nathan Hagglund	Present

Administrators:

Marilyn Tencza, Superintendent of Schools

Cady Maynard, Director of Finance and Operations

Jeffrey Berthiaume, Director of Technology and Digital Learning

- Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Hagglund asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. Elementary Oil Remediation

Dr. Tencza informed the Committee that an oil leak has occurred at the elementary school causing its closure and students are currently learning remotely. The leak has been repaired but oil has traveled down the pipes and into the brook and wetlands. Digging and environmental cleanup must be done and is in process. As a result, the elementary school building will be closed for the remainder of the school year. Possible plans are being made to house elementary classrooms at the middle school, high school and Becker College. The hope is that all elementary students will be in classrooms by May 10th.

3. Becker College Walkthrough

Dr. Tencza informed the Committee that a walkthrough was done at Becker College to see if it is a viable option for possible use by LPS. It was determined that, although it has some good facilities, it would require improvements before it is usable. The town will find out next week what the Becker package will look like. After discussion, the Committee decided that it would be a good idea to meet with the town and Select Board to discuss the educational possibilities. Motion to ask the Select Board to form a joint subcommittee to explore the educational possibilities at Becker College – Member Nathan Hagglund; Seconded Member Tom Lauder; motion carries – unanimous.

4. Job Descriptions

4.1 Life Skills Teacher

4.2 STEM Teacher

Motion to approve the Life Skills and STEM Teacher revised job descriptions as presented – Member Tom Lauder; Seconded Member Donna McCance; motion carries – unanimous.

5. Policies

5.1 First Reading

- Section F: Facilities Development
 - FA-E Facilities Development Goals

Motion to table Section F: Facilities Development and FA-E Facilities Development Goals until the June 1, 2021 School Committee Workshop – Member Nathan Hagglund; Seconded Member Scott Francis; motion carries – unanimous.

6. District Data Protocols

Discussion tabled until the May 10, 2021 School Committee meeting.

7. Evaluations & Goals

7.1 School Committee

Member Donna McCance outlined to Committee members how each of the three SMART goals set by the Committee were successfully attained by the specified timelines.

7.2 Superintendent

Dr. Tencza will send evidence to School Committee members by Friday, May 7th. Committee members will send their comments to Member Donna McCance to compile by Tuesday, May 25th. The document will be presented for discussion at the June 1st School Committee Workshop and a vote will take place at the June 7th School Committee meeting.

8. Facility Rentals

After discussion, it was decided that opening the LPS facilities up for rental at this time would not be wise due to sanitizing and contact tracing issues and will be brought up for discussion again by the Committee in June.

9. Public Comment

Robin Stolberg - When did we find out about the oil leak and is the Memorial building or library an option for use? Dr. Tencza answered, the oil leak was discovered on April 16th and permission was not given for digging until April 22nd. The Memorial building is not an option because it would take too much time to get it ready for use and the library is too small to accommodate an entire grade.

Kristina Looney – Would it be possible to use just Becker College and the Leicester Country Club for classrooms instead of spreading out the locations? Dr. Tencza answered, specials, related services and lunches would be difficult to accommodate and it would be better to keep students in a space that already has a cafeteria and a nurse.

Brian Carney – How did the oil leak happen, would the logistics of bussing students to multiple locations cause students to go missing and why is remote learning still offered as an option? Dr. Tencza answered, the leak occurred when tents were put up and one of the tent stakes pierced an oil pipe. The bussing company and chief of police have been contacted and will be involved with making sure students are accounted for. Remote learning is an option mandated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide an education alternative to parents if they choose not to send their children back to school this year.

Michele Dominy – With regard to housing Kindergarten and first grade students at Becker, will the bathrooms be low enough for the children to use and who is going to clean and sanitize the space? Dr. Tencza answered, children use their bathrooms at home which are the same and our current cleaning company will most likely be used to clean and sanitize.

Kathy West – Is it safe for the elementary teachers to work in the building at this time? Dr. Tencza answered, everyone has been given the option to work from home. People who are in the building are there voluntarily.

10. Executive Session

A motion was made by Member Stella Richard to go into executive session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with unions EAL (Education Association of Leicester), Government Employees' Union, IUPE, Local 4 (Food Services Unit), Government Employees' Union, IUPE, Local 175 (Clerical and Administrative Support) and not to reconvene in open session; Seconded by Member Donna McCance.

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Stella Richard; Seconded by Member Donna McCance; Motion carries - unanimous. The meeting adjourned at **6:37 p.m.**

Roll Call

Donna McCance	Present
Tom Lauder	Present
Stella Richard	Present
Scott Francis	Present
Nathan Hagglund	Present

List of Documents and Materials used during this meeting which are on file at the Leicester Public Schools Central Office.

- Life Skills Teacher Proposed Job Description
- STEM Teacher Proposed Job Description
- FA-E – Facilities Development Goals